

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A data communication system, comprising:
a two-conductor medium;
a plurality of transceivers; and
sets of bandpass filters wherein:

- a) the filters of each set are configured to define a respective ~~communication channel~~ one of a plurality of different passbands over said medium and are coupled to said medium in respective transceivers;
- b) each of said transceivers includes an amplifier coupled to said medium and includes a filter of each of said sets that is coupled to said amplifier to facilitate transmission of data signals through that filter to said medium; and
- c) each of said transceivers includes receivers and includes a filter of each of said sets that couples a respective one of said receivers to said medium to facilitate reception through that filter of said data signals from said medium;

~~said transceivers thereby enabled to communicate data signals over the~~ each of said sets thereby defining a respective one of different communication channels for communicating said data signals over said system of said sets.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 ~~[[2]]~~, wherein each of said transceivers further includes a combiner inserted between said amplifier and said filter of each of said sets.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 ~~[[4]]~~, wherein each of said passbands lies in the frequency region below 1000 megahertz.

6. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 ~~[[4]]~~, wherein each of said

passbands has a width that does not substantially exceed 10 megahertz.

7. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said two-conductor medium is a coaxial cable.

8. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said two-conductor medium is a twisted pair.

9. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said medium comprises a plurality of medium branches and further including at least one hub transceiver that couples said branches together and amplifies said data signals.

10-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A method of communicating data signals, comprising the steps of:

transmitting data signals to a two-conductor medium through bandpass transmit filters ~~whose~~ having different passbands that each define a respective one of ~~and~~ different communication channels in the frequency region below 1000 megahertz; and

receiving data signals from said medium through a plurality of bandpass receive filters each of whose passbands substantially matches the passband of a respective one[[s]] of said transmit filters.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, further including the step of amplifying said data signals prior to said transmitting step.

22. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein said two-conductor medium is a cable network that forms cable branches and further including the step of amplifying said data signals as they pass between said cable branches.